

job, because the congregation has seen a very significant increase in membership since his arrival.

Pace and Karen Robinson, two well-respected and long-time members of the congregation, said, "We are glad that Rabbi Joe came to Knoxville and became a part of our community by leading us into the 21st century."

Rabbi Mendelsohn is one of the finest men I have ever met, and I am honored to have him as our guest chaplain for the United States House of Representatives on this occasion.

#### PRIVATE CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is the day for the call of the Private Calendar. The Clerk will call the bill on the Private Calendar.

#### NANCY B. WILSON

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 392) for the relief of Nancy B. Wilson.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be passed over without prejudice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

#### SUDAN

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to raise again the policies of the government of Sudan and its treatment of its people.

Christians, Muslims, and Animists who do not submit to the Khartoum regime's control are targeted for destruction.

In addition to its daily war against the Sudan's people, which includes destroying villages, killing the men and selling women and children into slavery, the government issues draconian punishments for crimes.

One recent report details an 18-year-old illiterate Christian, Abok Alva Akok, who was raped but was sentenced to death because she could not produce the four male witnesses required under Muslim Sharia law.

International outcry caused her sentence to be overturned, but the court then sentenced her to a "rebuke" of 75 lashes, carried out immediately. During the proceedings, she was denied legal representation.

Mr. Speaker, the Khartoum regime not only denies justice to the Sudan's people, gives out harsh punishments, and permits active slave trade, but also is carrying out a brutal war to destroy the people of southern Sudan.

Khartoum's brutal policies must be stopped.

#### STOP THE RAID ON SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. SANDLIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, we must stop the raid on Social Security in this country. Last year, the administration stood in front of the United States Congress and promised us, My budget protects all \$2.6 trillion of the Social Security surplus for Social Security and Social Security alone.

Later in the year, leadership on the other side of the aisle said, The House of Representatives is not going to go back to raiding the Social Security and Medicare trust funds.

Yet, the reality is that the Republican budget did not protect the Social Security fund. Despite voting five times for the Social Security lockbox, today we are breaking that promise and raiding Social Security, to the tune of \$1.8 trillion.

Blue Dogs and other conservative Democrats across the country warned that the shaky projections of surplus, on which much of last year's budget was based, could so easily turn into deficits. That prediction has come true.

We are now being asked to consider another budget proposal that does not even try to disguise the raid on the Social Security surplus. Thirty-two million current retirees depend on Social Security income, and that number is increasing. Congress must stop this attack on Social Security.

#### IN A WARTIME BUDGET, CONGRESS PUTS FIRST THINGS FIRST

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we are not raiding Social Security, not one penny. Back home in the Lone Star State, we say, "Don't mess with Texas." To the terrorists, I say, "Don't mess with the U.S." We are at war, and this is a wartime budget, putting first things first.

Here are three of them:

National security tops the list, homeland security tops the list, and economic security tops the list. Also, this will be the largest increase in defense spending in over 20 years.

This wartime budget gives President Bush all the resources necessary to meet the Nation's top priorities: winning the war, strengthening our homeland security, investing in the future of our Armed Forces, and keeping our promises to our veterans.

A vote for this wartime budget is a vote for America's freedom. A vote for this wartime budget is a vote for America's security.

#### BUDGET, DEBT, AND SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, let us face the facts: Without last year's tax cut, we could have paid our entire Federal debt by 2008. That occurred before September 11. That is the fact.

Even with already dipping into Social Security, this budget proposes new tax cuts. In fact, the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT) said he wants to make the Bush tax cuts permanent. Both of these actions would divert money that could have been used to strengthen Social Security and pay down the national debt.

In the post-tax cut budget world we now live in, the national debt will still exist far into the future. Prior to the tax cut, it was projected that from 2002 to 2011, the government would owe \$709 billion in interest. We pay over \$1 billion of interest on the debt every day. That is scandalous.

Members can shake their heads all they want. That is a fact of life. They should look at their own budget. Without a surplus, I do not know how we can protect the long-term solvency of Social Security or Medicare.

#### INDO-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP RESTORED

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday I welcomed to Capitol Hill India's Ambassador to the United States, Lalit Mansingh, and Minister Ajay Swarup. I applaud the Indian government, one of the world's two largest democracies, for fighting the common enemy of international terrorism. Together, America and India can make South Asia and the world a safer place.

I am happy to see economic ties with India booming. Trade increased since 1991 from \$15 million to \$15 billion today, and 2 million Indian-Americans have enriched America with their business acumen.

With the victory of democracy in the Cold War, friendship has been restored between the people of India and America. I support President Bush's initiatives in building a strong partnership between America and India.

I commend the efforts of Ambassador Mansingh and Minister Swarup in their efforts to bring America and India closer together as allies.

#### URGING COLLEAGUES TO SUPPORT THE BUDGET RESOLUTION, WHICH LEAVES NO VETERAN BEHIND

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, next year there will be 700,000 more unique veteran patients in the VA health care network than were projected just 1 year ago. And as our veteran population continues to age and